

**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claims 8-21 define patentable subject matter. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, favorable consideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

**Specification**

The Examiner has pointed out that the specification requires the listing of the serial number of the patent application directed to related subject matter. The specification has been amended accordingly.

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 2-21 are currently pending.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 8-21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 2, 4-8, 10, 14, and 16 have been amended and claims 8, 10, 14, and 16 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,077,523 to Blanz. Applicant has canceled claim 1 and

## PATENT

amended the remaining objected to claims to depend from claim 8, which is in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced in these amendments.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 2-21 are allowable over the prior art and that the application is otherwise in condition for allowance in all respects.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 8, 2004



Paul D. Ackerman  
Patent Office Reg. No. 39,891

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-4498

Attorneys for Applicant  
(212) 408-2585